



Certified Spirits Educator (CSE) Exam - Society of Wine Educators
Spirits Tasting Rationale Exam
Sample Answer Sheet

Candidate Name: _____

Instructions:

You have been poured a sample of the following spirits:

- **Glass #1** - *Sample A*
- **Glass #2** - *Sample B*

On the pages that follow, please write a detailed tasting note of each of these spirits. The typical format of the SWE Spirits Tasting Rationale has been provided for you, as well as a few areas to summarize your impressions.

At the end of each of your tasting notes, in the space provided, please describe your overall impression of each spirit and form a conclusion as to how and why each spirit is representative of its category. If you believe that the spirit is not typical of its product class, describe how and why you believe it is an outlier of its category.

In either case, include a discussion of the product's base ingredients and production methods and their potential impact on the flavor profile of the finished product.

To pass this section, candidates must earn a minimum of 21/30 points for each tasting note.

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Spirits Tasting Rationale Exam Answer Sheet: **Glass # 1**

Product: **Sample A**

| | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|--------|
| Appearance: | | | | | | |
| (1 point – circle 1) | | | | | | |
| Clarity: | Brilliant | Clear | Dull | Hazy | Cloudy | |
| (1 point – circle 1) | | | | | | |
| Hue: | Water White | Pale | Light Yellow | Yellow-Gold | Deep Gold | Copper |
| | Tawny | Amber | Mahogany | Molasses | Brown | |
| (Use the items below for colored spirits only): | | | | | | |
| | Light Green | Dark Green | Clear Blue | Dark Blue | Purple | Pink |
| | Red | Orange | Yellow | Black | Other: | |
| (1 point – circle 1) | | | | | | |
| Depth: | Water White | Pale | Medium | Deep | Opaque | |
| (1 point – circle 1) | | | | | | |
| Legs: | Fast | Slight | Medium | Pronounced | Slow | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|----------------|------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------|--------|
| Conditions & Aromas: | | | | | | | | |
| (1 point – circle 1) | | | | | | | | |
| Condition: | Clean | Fresh | Stale | Unclean/Faulty | | | | |
| (1 point – circle 1) | | | | | | | | |
| Aroma Intensity: | Neutral | Light | Medium | Intense | | | | |
| (3 points – circle or write in up to 10) | | | | | | | | |
| Aromas: | | | | | | | | |
| Grain: | Malt | Bran | Cereal | Corn | Wheat | Biscuit | Other: | |
| Fruity: | Citrus | Tropical Fruit | Tree Fruit | Dried Fruit | Candied Fruit | Orange Peel | Other: | |
| Floral: | Rose | Violet | Perfume | Orange Blossom | Dried Flowers | Other: | | |
| Botanical: | Herbal | Vegetal | Juniper | Tobacco | Peat | Seaweed | Other: | |
| Sugar: | Caramel | Honey | Maple | Molasses | Burnt Sugar | Toffee | Vanilla | Other: |
| Spice: | Clove | Nutmeg | Anise | Cinnamon | White Pepper | Black Pepper | Other: | |
| Oak/Wood: | Oak | Cedar | Sawdust | Coffee | Pine | Char | Other: | |
| Nutty: | Walnut | Hazelnut | Praline | Almond | Marzipan | Coconut | Other: | |
| Rancio: | Leather | Smoke | Earthy | Acetaldehyde | Ash | Tar | Other | |
| Other: | | | | | | | | |

Spirits Tasting Rationale Exam Answer Sheet: Glass # 1 (continued)

Aromas/Overall (3 points) In 50 words or less, describe the aromatic expression of the spirit:

Palate:

(1 point – circle 1)

Sweetness: None Light Moderate Sweet Very Sweet

(1 point – circle 1)

Acidity: None Light Moderate Sharp Sour

(1 point – circle 1)

Bitterness: None Light Moderate Sharp Astringent

(1 point – circle 1)

Alcohol: Soft Smooth Warm Pronounced Hot Harsh

(1 point – circle 1)

Body: Light Medium Full

(1 point – circle 1)

Flavor Intensity: Light Medium Intense

Flavors (3 points) In 50 words or less, describe the flavors of the spirit

Certified Spirits Educator (CSE) Exam - Society of Wine Educators
 Spirits Tasting Rationale Exam Answer Sheet: **Glass # 2**

Product: **Sample B**

| | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|--------|
| Appearance: | | | | | | |
| (1 point – circle 1) | | | | | | |
| Clarity: | Brilliant | Clear | Dull | Hazy | Cloudy | |
| (1 point – circle 1) | | | | | | |
| Hue: | Water White | Pale | Light Yellow | Yellow-Gold | Deep Gold | Copper |
| | Tawny | Amber | Mahogany | Molasses | Brown | |
| (Use the items below for colored spirits only): | | | | | | |
| | Light Green | Dark Green | Clear Blue | Dark Blue | Purple | Pink |
| | Red | Orange | Yellow | Black | Other: | |
| (1 point – circle 1) | | | | | | |
| Depth: | Water White | Pale | Medium | Deep | Opaque | |
| (1 point – circle 1) | | | | | | |
| Legs: | Fast | Slight | Medium | Pronounced | Slow | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|----------------|------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------|--------|
| Conditions & Aromas: | | | | | | | | |
| (1 point – circle 1) | | | | | | | | |
| Condition: | Clean | Fresh | Stale | Unclean/Faulty | | | | |
| (1 point – circle 1) | | | | | | | | |
| Aroma Intensity: | Neutral | Light | Medium | Intense | | | | |
| (3 points – circle or write in up to 10) | | | | | | | | |
| Aromas: | | | | | | | | |
| Grain: | Malt | Bran | Cereal | Corn | Wheat | Biscuit | Other: | |
| Fruity: | Citrus | Tropical Fruit | Tree Fruit | Dried Fruit | Candied Fruit | Orange Peel | Other: | |
| Floral: | Rose | Violet | Perfume | Orange Blossom | Dried Flowers | Other: | | |
| Botanical: | Herbal | Vegetal | Juniper | Tobacco | Peat | Seaweed | Other: | |
| Sugar: | Caramel | Honey | Maple | Molasses | Burnt Sugar | Toffee | Vanilla | Other: |
| Spice: | Clove | Nutmeg | Anise | Cinnamon | White Pepper | Black Pepper | Other: | |
| Oak/Wood: | Oak | Cedar | Sawdust | Coffee | Pine | Char | Other: | |
| Nutty: | Walnut | Hazelnut | Praline | Almond | Marzipan | Coconut | Other: | |
| Rancio: | Leather | Smoke | Earthy | Acetaldehyde | Ash | Tar | Other | |
| Other: | | | | | | | | |

Spirits Tasting Rationale Exam Answer Sheet: Glass # 2 (continued)

Aromas/Overall (3 points) In 50 words or less, describe the aromatic expression of the spirit:

Palate:

(1 point – circle 1)

Sweetness: None Light Moderate Sweet Very Sweet

(1 point – circle 1)

Acidity: None Light Moderate Sharp Sour

(1 point – circle 1)

Bitterness: None Light Moderate Sharp Astringent

(1 point – circle 1)

Alcohol: Soft Smooth Warm Pronounced Hot Harsh

(1 point – circle 1)

Body: Light Medium Full

(1 point – circle 1)

Flavor Intensity: Light Medium Intense

Flavors (3 points) In 50 words or less, describe the flavors of the spirit

